

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 23 as follows:

In US Patent No. 5,497,944, there is described and shown a similar device in which the check valve member is a ball. With such an arrangement, the ball can rotate during multiple operations. It has been found that wear and distortion under the high pressure involved can permanently deform the ball so that if a different part of its surface is used during sequential closing and sealing operations (because the ball is free to rotate about a transverse axis) there is a tendency for leakage to occur. This can be avoided by using the same surface of the valve member each time thus allowing bedding down to ensure the desired seal. In the preferred embodiment according to the invention, at least a major part of the valve member is cylindrical and is guided in a chamber (which may, for example, be the pump chamber itself or may be a part of the interior of the piston) and the valve member cylinder has an end surface which co-operate with the valve seal provided by the piston. Another disadvantage of a ball valve which can be avoided using the invention is that ~~that~~ the transverse area of the valve is necessarily considerably smaller than the diameter of the ball and thus the guide cylinder in which it moves; this leads to a reduction in the force applied by the valve member to the valve seat arising from fluid pressure generated during the pressure stroke (forward movement) of the piston. A high application of force of the valve member is desirable to slightly elastically deform the valve member ~~and~~ and/or the valve seat to close any slight gaps between them.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 16 as follows:

The upper housing part (51) contains the pump housing (52) on the end of which is mounted the holder (53) for the atomizer nozzle. This holder is preferable as described in German Patent Application P19536303.3-51 of 4 October 1995 (and a parallel PCT application being filed simultaneously herewith in the joint names of Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH and the inventors) the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. In the holder is the nozzle member (54) and a filter (55). The hollow piston (57) fixed in the cup-shaped drive flange (56) of the blocking mechanism (57) (62) partly projects into the cylinder of the pump housing. At its end the hollow piston carries the valve member (58). The hollow piston is sealed off by the seal (59). Inside upper housing part is the annular abutment (opposite annular ridge (60) on the flange) on which the flange rests when the spring is released. On the axial end of the cup-shaped driven flange is the abutment (61) by which the driven flange is held when the spring is biased. After the biassing biasing of the spring, the generally annular blocking member (62) moves between the abutment (61) and a support (63) in the upper housing part, either because its own elasticity or (when it is more rigid) by virtue of an external spring (not shown). The actuating button (64) is connected to the blocking member and can either move it bodily or deform it so that it releases the abutment (61). The upper housing part terminates in the mouth piece (65) and is closed off by the protective cap (66) which can be fitted thereon.